

Remark

No claims have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-26 are present for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Wugofski et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wugofski et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,003,041 ("Wugofski") in view of Goldschmidt et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,295,646 ("Goldschmidt"). The Examiner states that the prior arguments are moot in view of the new grounds. This is generally understood to be a withdrawal of the previous rejection.

As to Wugofski, see Applicant's previous remarks and the Examiner's statement on page 3, lines 5-7 of the Final Office action, *inter alia*.

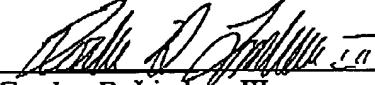
As to Goldschmidt, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference is not prior art to the present application. Goldschmidt was filed on October 30, 1998 and the present application claims priority to Application Serial No. 09/183,277 also filed October 30, 1998. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that any rejection based on Goldschmidt be withdrawn.

There being no further rejections of the primary claims of this application, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the application be passed to issuance.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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